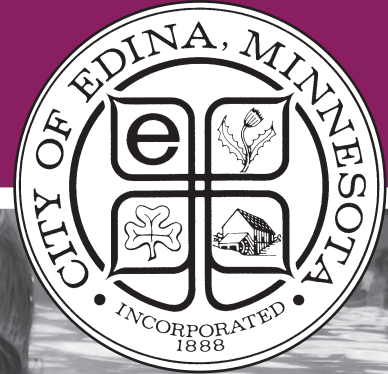


City Manager Set
To Retire

See Page 46

AboutTown

Official Magazine of the City of Edina



S U M M E R • 2 0 1 0

AboutTown

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We include articles of interest about our citizens and
community history as well.

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Filing Period For Council Members Begins Aug. 3

The filing period for municipal office begins Aug. 3 and
closes 4:30 p.m. Aug. 17. The last day to withdraw from can-
didacy is Thursday, Aug. 19.

On Nov. 2 during the General Election, Edina voters will
choose two Council Members who will each serve for a four-
year term. Seats held by Council Members Scot Housh and
Joni Bennett are up for election.

The Primary Election for county, state and federal offices will
be held Aug. 10. Absentee voting for the Primary Election
began June 25.

For more information on the elections or filing for
municipal office, contact Edina Elections at 952-826-0363.

About Town Calendar

July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Key:</p>  <p>3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Noon, Mary Hall's Show for Pipsqueaks, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Edina Art Center closed.</p> <p>10 a.m., Independence Day Parade.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>6:30-10:30 p.m., Edina Art Center open house, Edina Art Center.</p> <p>8:30 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band followed by fireworks, Rosland Park.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>City Hall, Edina Art Center closed in observance of Independence Day.</p> <p>7 p.m., Calhoun Isles Community Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Noon, Big Fun Show, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., City Council & HRA, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:45 p.m., Art Academy Sampler begins, Edina Art Center.</p> <p>7 p.m., Medalist Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon, Alpha Bits, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10 a.m.-2 p.m., Family Day, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 p.m., Flute Cocktail, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>2010 Overall Flying Disc Championships begin, Highlands Park.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Noon, Okee Dokee Brothers, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 p.m., Star of the North Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.</p> <p>6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>7 p.m., Northern Winds Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 p.m., Minnetonka Civic Orchestra, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Noon, Mrs. Catherine & Friends, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., City Council & HRA, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 p.m., Rum River Brass Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Noon, Wiggle, Jiggle Jam, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>4:30 p.m., Art Center Board, Edina Art Center.</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>7 p.m., Honeywell Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 p.m., Dance Lessons - Salsa in the Park, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.</p> <p>7 p.m., Sidewalk Cafe Duo, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.</p> <p>7 p.m., Scott Frasier Guitar Duo, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Noon, Bob the Beachcomber, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Love Happens," Centennial Lakes Park.</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

August 2010

About Town Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7 p.m., Minneapolis Police Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	2 7 p.m., Amy & Adams, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., City Council & HRA, Edina City Hall.	3 8 a.m., Filings open for City Council. Noon, Mary Hall's Show for Pipsqueaks, Centennial Lakes Park.	4 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Safety Camp, South Metro Public Safety Training Facility. 7 p.m., The Bavarian Music Meisters, Centennial Lakes Park.	5 Noon, Brodini's Magic Comedy, Centennial Lakes Park. 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	6	7
8 7 p.m., Zuhrah Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	9 7 p.m., Celebration Band, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.	10 Primary Election. Edina Art Center Children's Camps WW-AC begin.	11 7 p.m., Somewhat Dixieland Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	12 Noon, Music That Tickles, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.	13	14
15 7:50 p.m., Fife & Drums, Centennial Lakes Park. 8:30 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	16 7 p.m., Wild Honey and the Locusts, Centennial Lakes Park.	17 5 p.m., Filings close for City Council. 7 p.m., Vintage Piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.	18 7 p.m., Funky United (jazz/funk band), Centennial Lakes Park.	19 Noon, Storytelling with Jack Pearson, Centennial Lakes Park. 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	20	21
22 7 p.m., The Medicine Show Music Company, Centennial Lakes Park.	23 7 p.m., Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, Centennial Lakes Park.	24 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Sidewalk Cafe Duo, Centennial Lakes Park.	25 7 p.m., Armenian Dance Ensemble, Centennial Lakes Park.	26 Noon, Okee Dokee Brothers, Centennial Lakes Park. 4:30 p.m., Art Center Board, Edina Art Center.	27	28 9 a.m.-noon, Family Rainbarrel Art Workshop, Edina Art Center.
29 7 p.m., Inver Hills Community Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	30 7 p.m., Dance Lessons - Ballroom Dancing (foxtrot and waltz), Centennial Lakes Park.	31 Noon, Alpha Bits, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Jim Berner, Centennial Lakes Park.				Key: 3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.

About Town Calendar

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Key:</p>  <p>3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Noon, Wonderful World of Woody, Edinborough Park.</p> <p>5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Edina Art Center closed.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>City Hall closed in observance of Labor Day.</p> <p>9 a.m., Darkroom Open Studio ends, Edina Art Center.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 p.m., City Council & HRA, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8 p.m., Members' Juried Show forms and fees due, Edina Art Center.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Noon, Bob the Beachcomber, Edinborough Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fall into the Arts Festival, Centennial Lakes Park.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fall into the Arts Festival, Centennial Lakes Park.</p> <p>7 p.m., CC Septet, Edinborough Park.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Fall classes begin at Edina Art Center.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall.</p> <p>7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Noon, Brodini Comedy & Magic Act, Edinborough Park.</p> <p>6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>7 p.m., Minneapolis Police Swing Band, Edinborough Park.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 p.m., Community Health Committee, Edina City Hall.</p> <p>7 p.m., City Council & HRA, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Noon, Okee Dokee Brothers Band, Edinborough Park.</p> <p>4:30 p.m., Art Center Board, Edina Art Center.</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9 a.m., Registration begins, Arthritis Walk – Twin Cities, Rosland Park.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Noon, Jim Berner, Edinborough Park.</p> <p>5-8 p.m., Members' Juried Show opening reception, Edina Art Center.</p> 		

Summer Calendar Highlights

Other Dates To Remember

- July 1** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “Julie & Julia,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 6** 7 p.m., Vintage Piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 8** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “17 again,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 13** 7 p.m., Sidewalk Café Duo, Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 13** 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.
- July 15** Noon, Rusty’s Rockin’ Jamboree, Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 15** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “Kung Fu Panda,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 20** 7 p.m., Vintage Piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 22** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “Invictus,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 27** Noon, Wonderful World of Woody, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 5** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 10** Noon, Kristie’s Kid Show, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 10** 7 p.m., Sidewalk Café Duo, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 12** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “The Blind Side,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 15** 7 p.m. Vintage piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 17** Noon, Dakota Wild Animals, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 17** 7 p.m., City Council & HRA, Edina City Hall.
- Aug. 19** 7 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.
- Aug. 19** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “New Moon,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 24** Noon, Will Hale & The Tadpole Parade, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 26** Sunset, Movie in the Park – “The Bucket List,” Centennial Lakes Park.
- Sept. 16** 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.

Lighthouse Night

What: Started by the Edina Model Yacht Club, Lighthouse Night has become an annual event at Centennial Lakes Park. More than 100 Tiki Torches will burn behind the Centrum and the park’s special lighting will be highlighted. At 8 p.m., there will be open boating in the Central Pond for model yachts. The First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band will perform in the amphitheater at 8:30 p.m. At dusk, the boats from the Model Yacht Club will light up the lake. The backdrop will be a floating and fully operational scaled model of a lighthouse.

When: Sunday, Aug. 15

Where: Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.

Info: 952-832-6789

Fall into the Arts Festival

What: As summer draws to a close, people will start thinking about fall and winter – holiday gift-giving, back-to-school shopping, entertaining, indoor décor, rustic accessories and glittering jewelry. More than 125 talented artists from around the Midwest will display and sell their work at the seventh-annual Fall into the Arts Festival at Centennial Lakes Park. The arts festival will also feature favorite fall foods and entertainment, children’s activities and artist demonstrations. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Edina Crime Prevention Fund.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12

Where: Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.

Info: www.FallintotheArtsFestival.com or at EdinaFallArts@netzero.net.

A Word From The Mayor

This community is losing an incredible public servant and leader with the retirement of Gordon Hughes as our City Manager on July 30.

Under our form of government, the City Manager is in charge of all administrative functions of the City. In other words, the City Manager runs the day-to-day operations of city government. There are approximately 250 full-time City employees, and with all our temporary seasonal workers, that number approaches 800 in the summertime. The City budget exceeds \$30 million annually and we have enterprise operations such as Edina Liquor, Braemar Golf Course, Braemar Arena and the Art Center that are also all overseen by the City Manager. Each department head reports directly to Gordon, including Finance, Park & Recreation, Planning, Police, Fire, Engineering, Health, Building Inspections, Assessing and Communications & Marketing. It is an extraordinary responsibility to run this kind of an operation and requires a highly comprehensive base of knowledge by our City's chief of operations.

Gordon Hughes has performed all of his oversight functions with exceptional ability. He is very smart, with an incredible command of all areas of operation, from public finance and budgeting to public safety. His advice to the Council is always rock solid and despite having an outstanding Finance Department, I believe Gordon is one of the key reasons Edina has a Triple A bond rating from both Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poors – one of only a few cities in the United States under 50,000 in population to hold such a designation.

His management style (and his counseling style with the City Council, for that matter) is one of patience

and calmness followed by words of wisdom, which seem to always point either employees or the Council in the correct direction. The effectiveness of his manner of leadership of our employees is best reflected in the high level of retention and the unparalleled delivery of services, whether it is snowplowing, emergency medical, police or fire response times or simply in how residents are treated by staff when they come to City Hall with a question or concern.

We are losing as fine a City Manager as any community could ever hope to have serve. His warmth, good sense of humor, intellectual capacity and his basic goodness as a person will be sorely missed. If you see Gordon around Edina, take a moment to greet him and thank him for his superb service. He helped make our community what it is over the last 36 years. Work of the quality he did deserves the highest accolades and most heartfelt appreciation from all of us who call Edina home.

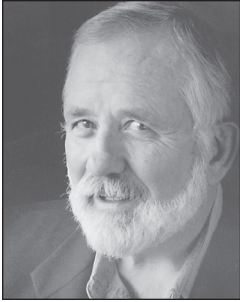


James B. Hovland
Mayor

“Ninety-eight percent of wisdom is being wise in time.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Arneson Acres: Edina's 'Secret Garden'



By Joe Sullivan
Contributing Writer

On West 70th Street, just east of Highway 100, there is a simple sign that reads "Arneson Acres Park." It marks the entrance to 15 well-kept acres of rolling green meadow, flower gardens and majestic trees, waiting to be discovered by the hundreds of people who drive

by them daily. Mostly hidden from the street are its 28 formal gardens, a bubbling fountain, gazebo, greenhouse and too many flowering trees, shrubs and plants to count. The park is a little-known jewel of our community and one of Edina's best-kept secrets.

The site now occupied by Arneson Acres Park was not always so beautiful. In the late 1940s, when the 20-acre plot of farmland was purchased by nursery owner Morten Arneson, it was just another field of alfalfa. He used it to grow trees and other stock for his St. Louis Park nursery.

Arneson Began Career As Nurseryman At Early Age

Born in 1893 in Oslo, Norway, Arneson began a lifelong career with plants and flowers as a boy of 13. He signed a four-year contract as an apprentice nurseryman, working in Oslo's parks and living in a building called the "home for apprentices." He was promoted to foreman of his work crew when he was barely 17.

In 1911, at the age of 18, he decided to emigrate from Norway to the United States. Soon after his arrival, he



Park Nicollet Medical Center Photo

Morten Arneson's original 1929 nursery was on Excelsior Boulevard in St. Louis Park. It was Arneson's first venture into a privately owned and operated business.

made his way to Minneapolis where he found work with the nascent Minneapolis park system under legendary Theodore Wirth, Director of Parks. Restricted somewhat by limited English, Arneson's good humor and Norwegian brogue helped him fit in well. He even became a welcome speaker at local businesses and social gatherings. His prior experience and training eventually earned him a promotion to head of the flower department, a position he held for 17 years.

Arneson met, courted and married the former Katherin Peterson in Minneapolis. In 1929, they decided he should leave the Minneapolis park system and strike out on his own, establishing a nursery business on three acres along

Excelsior Boulevard in St. Louis Park. In those days, St. Louis Park was a small but fast-growing suburb of Minneapolis, with just over 2,000 residents.

Despite economic challenges brought on by the Great Depression, the business thrived. His landscape designs were featured in newspaper articles about distinctive new homes in upscale neighborhoods. Arneson was a successful nurseryman for sure, but also much more.

Successful Nurseryman As Community Activist

Arneson became an active participant in the civic matters of St. Louis Park. For example, he once pointed out to “the Park’s” newspaper that 14 speakeasies along Excelsior Boulevard were operating illegally. But his plea was flatly ignored. Like nearly everyone else in town, the newspaper and the police department were deliberately overlooking the illicit taverns in the early 1930s, even though the sale of alcoholic beverages was not allowed by the infamous “prohibition” law.

Ultimately, the tavern across the street from his home at Quentin Avenue and Excelsior Boulevard led to an appearance by Arneson at the Village Council meeting to complain about after-hours noise coming from the speakeasy.

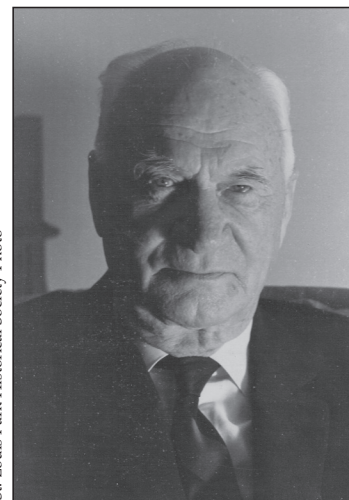
In his memoir, Arneson further described the lawless atmosphere on Excelsior Boulevard during and even after Prohibition ended in 1934. Alcoholic beverages were again legal to sell in licensed bars, taverns and restaurants. Although a village ordinance required

taverns to close at midnight, it was not being enforced. Anyone who didn’t like it was reportedly told to go back to Minneapolis. Once again, his plea was ignored.

Arneson’s outrage over the situation launched him into politics. With several other residents, he organized the Better Government League and throughout its existence was its only chairman. The group’s main goal was to put forth for election to Village office candidates with impeccable reputations. Their first success was getting Roy Sewell elected mayor. Sewell immediately fired the police chief and hired a replacement, who served St. Louis Park for many years.

Arneson was also appointed head of the Village Planning Commission, which he served for 25 years. During this time, St. Louis Park was completely rezoned. It

(continued on next page)



St. Louis Park Historical Society Photo

In addition to his nursery business in St. Louis Park, Morten Arneson was an energetic community activist who held key positions in several organizations important to the rapidly growing Minneapolis suburb during the 1930s and 40s.

continues to use much of the same zoning regulations today.

During his tenure on the Planning Commission, St. Louis Park's population swelled from 2,400 to more than 30,000. Faced with this kind of growth, it was soon recognized that management of the fast-growing village by its Village Council was no longer appropriate.

Perhaps his biggest contribution came as chairman of St. Louis Park's Charter Commission, which was charged with finding the best form of government for the municipality. After four years of study, they recommended a joint council-manager type of arrangement, which put administration in the hands of hired professionals and left the Council free to attend to the big picture.

During his eight years as chairman, the Charter Commission also helped the Village transform itself from a village to a city form of government. In 1954, the council-city manager charter was put to a vote and approved. It is still the charter under which the city operates.

Godfather Of St. Louis Park Medical Center

In 1950, a group of 11 young physicians, mostly World War II veterans recently released from military duty, approached Arneson, seeking a site for a new medical center. He told them his land was not for sale, but the doctors persisted. Arneson later commented, "I never [met] such a fine, clean-cut group of young men."

The physicians didn't have a lot of money to invest in the project, but the proposed medical center held so much promise for St. Louis Park's future that Arneson eventually agreed to lease a portion of his nursery's land to them at a cost that fit their limited budget. The doctors were able to obtain federal funding to construct the building and the friendly terms of the final lease agreement sealed the bargain.

As the building went up, Arneson was on the site every day. Throughout the construction period, Arneson provided water, electricity and phone service for the project, all at no cost to his lessees. During and after the first years of the medical center, he continued to encourage and offer constructive criticism of their expansion plans.

On his remaining land, Arneson built a National Tea grocery store on the corner of Excelsior and Quentin, which later became the Park Nicollet MRI Imaging Center.

The Arnesons also donated a medical library to the clinic. At the building's dedication in 1968, Arneson was proclaimed the "godfather of the St. Louis Park Medical Center," now known as Park Nicollet Clinic. The entire complex of buildings along Excelsior was named for Morten and Katherin in their honor.



This aerial photo of Arneson Acres Park was taken in 1969, the year Morten and Katherin Arneson donated their property and home to the Village of Edina. It was still a lot for nursery stock that grew trees and bushes for sale in Arneson's Nursery. Note the Arneson's house in the upper right of the photo. Five of the original 20 acres (bottom center) would later be sold for development of residential housing.

Relocated To Edina

In 1950, the Arnesons moved to nearby Edina on the 20-acre plot of land they had purchased years before, primarily to raise nursery stock for their St. Louis Park nursery. They built a modest two-bedroom rambler on the north end of the property.

The Arnesons invited the neighborhood children to slide down their sloping backyard in the winters and to fly kites in the spring. They kept an eye out for good behavior and didn't hesitate to scold anyone they thought was misbehaving.

It wasn't long before the Arnesons were feeling pressure from local developers to subdivide their tree farm for residential lots. The area around the new nursery was rapidly being developed, but the prospect of destroying trees and open area was unthinkable to a man whose life had been dedicated to gardening.

15 Of 20 Acres And House Donated To Edina

When their property taxes rose to \$6,000 per year, the Arnesons decided to donate the house and most of the acreage to the then Village of Edina. "To assure the permanent preservation of the land's beauty," were the words inscribed on a plaque that would overlook the proposed park and gardens. The Arnesons formally donated 15 acres of their property and their home to the City on Jan. 2, 1969. They had previously sold five acres on the south end of their nursery lot for development into 14 residential lots on Aspasia Lane and Aspasia Circle.

(continued on next page)



Even when snow still covers the ground, the hilltop picture window of the Edina Historical Society's reference library offers beautiful views of the house's terrace and Arneson Acres Park.

The donation to the City was created as a "life estate." As a condition of their gift, the couple was allowed to reside tax-free on the land and live in their house on the hill as long as one or both of them lived. The Arnesons made one other stipulation – that the City would build a greenhouse on the property to grow flowers and plants for all of its parks and more than 100 other public spaces. Morten and Katherin Arneson envisioned an oasis for city dwellers when they gave their home and property to the village. The gift was a reflection of their joint lifetimes of gardening and civic mindedness.

Arneson worked with the Edina Garden Council and the Village to plan the completion of Arneson Park as a mall, 500 feet long by 100 feet wide, lined with formal gardens.

"There's nothing in the world so beautiful as a flower," Mort said at the park's dedication ceremony in 1976. He also expressed his hope that Edina, like most great cities, would be a "city of flowers."

Katherin Arneson died in January 1972. For the remaining 10 years of Morten's life, he lived in the white rambler in Edina and spent his winters in Florida. Until the end of his days, Arneson was right where he liked to be – in the middle of it all – surrounded by his many friends.

Edina Historical Society's Home

The Edina Historical Society found a permanent home at the Arneson house in 1988, after the



The Arneson home was remodeled to include an addition (left) for exhibit space. The addition now houses the Edina History Museum. The original rambler-style house, now headquarters of the Edina Historical Society and Edina Garden Council, resembled other residential ramblers built in Edina. The Terrace Room (lower right) was converted from a walkout basement to a meeting space now used by many City and private groups.

Edina Centennial Committee raised more than \$200,000 to add a wing to the house for exhibit space, another of Mort's visions. The new wing became the Edina History Museum. The remainder of the house was remodeled for office space, photo archives, records storage and a research library. Visitors often pause to look out the picture window of the original house to enjoy what many have called "the best view in Edina."

Other Facilities

Morten's vision that the house and land be used for outdoor gatherings such as weddings and garden parties has been realized. The Edina Garden Council and the City have worked hard to produce his vision. The grounds

include a fountain, daylily garden, circle of flowering crab trees, a hosta glade and many other areas of beauty.

Visitors may rent the gazebo (donated by the Garden Council) or the Terrace Room of the Arneson home, which opens to a large patio on the lower level and a grand view of the park. The Terrace Room sees constant use. In addition to wedding receptions and graduation parties, smaller groups rent the room for retreats and classes. During breaks, participants often stroll through the gardens for quiet contemplation.

In the park's greenhouse and storage area, the City's horticulturist and garden clubs of the Edina Garden Council grow a wide variety of plants for the parks and more than 100 public gardens that they plant and care for in Edina each spring. Flowers and plants are also grown in the greenhouse for the Garden Council's annual public flower sale that attracts crowds of amateur gardeners each May.

Photos and background material for this article came from the City of Edina and City of St. Louis Park websites and the following publications: *Edina Sun-Current*, *St. Louis Park Sun*, *Minneapolis Sun*, *Minneapolis Tribune*, *Edina Historical Society Newsletter*, *Village of Edina Newsletter*, *St. Louis Park Newsletter* and *St. Louis Park Medical Center Bulletin*.

Photo by Kaylin Martin



Two seasonal employees water plants in the Arneson Acres greenhouse. The Edina Garden Council starts growing flowers for some 100 City flower gardens in the winter and begins planting them outdoors in May.

Edina Horticulturist Celebrates 25 Years Of Creating New Flowers

By Marty Doll

Tim Zimmerman has a passion for plants – flowers, vegetables, trees, shrubs – you name it. If he can plant it, he will nurture it from tiny seed to towering sequoia.

“I love to work with plants, and I love to work with the outdoors,” said Zimmerman, the City of Edina’s longtime horticulturist. “There’s nothing better than spending a whole summer outdoors working with nature.”

Horticulture is the science of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants. Zimmerman does just that in 100 gardens spread throughout Edina, and as the City’s chief flower guru, he grows almost every one directly from seed each year.

While his love is not lost on any bud, sapling or sprout, Zimmerman says that, in his mind, one specific plant rises above all others – the true lily (lillium).

“They stand out in the garden,” said Zimmerman of the large, colorful and showy flower to which he has dedicated much of the last 25 years of his horticultural work.

25 Years Of Hybridization

After receiving his degree from the University of Minnesota, Zimmerman worked for Three Rivers Park District before joining Edina’s Park Maintenance division in 1984 – the same year he first began hybridizing lilies.

Zimmerman’s family, specifically his older brother Tom, strongly encouraged his interest in horticulture. It was



Photo by Marty Doll

Zimmerman checks on seedlings in Edina’s Arneson Acres Greenhouse.

Tom, who holds a doctorate in the field and now heads up the research lab for Caribbean tropical plants in the Virgin Islands, who helped Zimmerman discover his love for lilies.

“I started [creating] multicolored flowers – putting two or more colors into a [single] flower,” said Zimmerman of his first foray into lily hybridization.

As Zimmerman explains it, the act of hybridizing lilies is less complicated than one might think. It involves taking the pollen from one flower and placing it on the stigma of another. While the general goal is to cross the best qualities, Zimmerman says he was encouraged from the start to set specific goals for any flower he tried to create.

"After so many years, I got a little bored with [colors], and for the last 16 years I've been working with pollenless lilies," said Zimmerman. "I'm trying to get newer hybrids – hearty hybrids with a lot more color, substance and more flowers."

Zimmerman now enjoys the challenge of finding a lily he loves and trying to duplicate it by eliminating its pollen, which can stain clothes and makes for a "messy cut flower." While he says other hybridizers before him have been able to produce pollenless lilies, they often produced very small flowers. After several generations of crosses, Zimmerman was able to obtain large pollenless flowers, which he named the "Thick" series.

Submitted Photo



Zimmerman's lily "Ring of Fire" has red petals with a bright orange ring in the center.

"The kind of work Tim and other hybridizers do is extremely valuable in creating new lilies found on the market today," said Neil Anderson, an Associate Professor of Floriculture at the University of Minnesota and friend of Zimmerman. "He is not a paid professional; he does this because

he likes to do it. He is making a significant contribution to understanding lilies."

In order to create a new flower through hybridization, Zimmerman must first get the cross-pollination between flowers to "take," or form a new seed. This, he says, only happens about one-third of the time, and even when a seed does "take," it often dies before it can mature due to a lack of food going to the cell.

Zimmerman says failure is even more common when crossing two very different types of lilies, or "wide crosses." (If one were to compare the world of lilies to the world of dog breeding, a wide cross would be like crossing a Chihuahua with a Doberman.) Zimmerman attempts to solve this problem through a process called "embryo rescue," which he performs in the labs of the University of Minnesota. While most of his hybridization work is done in his own home, he says about 10 percent is done with Anderson in the labs of his alma mater.

"I try to take the embryo out of the seed and put it in a culture," said Zimmerman. "I give it food and try to get it to sprout and grow. This is the newest and latest technology when it comes to hybridizing."

Even when he is able to produce a hybridized seed and get it to sprout, the work doesn't stop. According to Zimmerman, it might take three generations of crosses – or eight to nine years of hybridizing – to get an adequate lily.

(continued on next page)



Zimmerman plants flowers in Edina's indoor Edinborough Park. He grows nearly all of the flowers found in City parks and gardens from seed.

"Once you've got the perfect lily you love, you then have to evaluate it another two to three years to make sure it's performing exactly the way you viewed it the first time," said Zimmerman.

"He's been hybridizing for a long time, and there are a lot of new things he's developed and come up with," said Anderson. "It is a very special technique, and you have to be very patient."

Since 1984, Zimmerman has registered five unique lilies with the Royal Horticultural Society in England, all of which can be found growing in Arneson Acres' Minnesota Hybrid Lily Garden. His first, Desert Storm, named in

honor of those who served in the first Iraq war, was registered in 1995 and won multiple awards from regional lily societies. His four others, Riley, Morgan, Dream Julius and Ring of Fire, were registered in 2008.

In addition to growing his own lilies, Zimmerman is also dedicated to preserving the lily's history.

"More lilies are hybridized in Minnesota than any of the 48 [continental] states," said Franci Nelson, President of Minnesota's 300-plus member North Star Lily Society, to which Zimmerman also belongs. "Tim is trying to pull together as many lilies hybridized by Minnesotans as he can [for the Minnesota Hybrid Lily Garden] to ensure they won't be lost."

Zimmerman, who hopes to register another five lilies this summer, also wants people to know they don't have to be a scientist to create their own beautiful strains of flowers.

"Anyone can hybridize lilies, and you can keep it simple," said Zimmerman.

For more information, contact Zimmerman at Edina's Arneson Acres Greenhouse, 612-915-6616.

Editor's Note: Zimmerman has been working for 11 years to hybridize a pollenless white lily with purple brush marks. If he is ever successful, he says he will name it after his daughter Taylor, who was killed in a lightning strike in 2009.

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Garage Sales

Garage or yard sales are a great way to clean out your house, meet your neighbors and make some extra money. If you plan to have a sale at your home this year, please be aware of the following rules.

- You may conduct only one sale per year at your home, lasting no more than 72 consecutive hours.
- Items offered for sale must be owned by the owner of the premises or by friends of the owner.
- Items offered for sale must not have been bought for resale or received on consignment for the purpose of resale.
- Signs may be erected on the premises where the sale is taking place. No off-site signs are allowed.
- No signs may be posted on the road right-of-way (the City-owned property 15 feet in from residential curbs) or on telephone poles.

For more information, contact Associate Planner Joyce Repya, 952-826-0462.

Tall Grass and Weeds

Think you don't have enough time for yard work? You might want to reconsider. The City has standards for grass and weed management.

Did you know that weeds and grasses should not be taller than eight inches? This includes boulevards, alleys, landscaped areas and developed and undeveloped land.

Grass and weeds in drainage ponds, wetlands and similar waterways are exempt.

For more information, contact the City's Weed Inspector, 952-826-0353.

Dumping In Parks

The City of Edina has 1,532 acres of park land, of which approximately 800 are wooded or un-mowed natural areas. Within the wooded areas are growing some of Edina's greatest and oldest trees. Trees thrive under natural conditions greatly favoring their health and longevity. Unfortunately, some residents are wrecking those natural conditions.

According to the City Code, "no person, in any park, street, sidewalk or publicly owned property shall ... deposit, place or leave any paper, rubbish, waste, cans, bottles or refuse of any kind except in receptacles provided for the collection of waste." The Code provides for the protection and preservation of these areas by making it unlawful to cut, remove or plant any material without a City permit, and unlawful to dispose of any trash – including organic material such as leaves, grass clippings, branches and logs.

Depositing such organic material within these areas, besides being unsightly, can cause ill health and even mortality to the existing trees and other vegetation. Too much of this material on the ground can smother the roots, causing oxygen deprivation which adversely affects the health of plants. Roots of all plants require soil

oxygen to function properly. This soil oxygen is depleted dramatically whenever the ground becomes unnaturally overloaded.

Residents must contract with a refuse hauler for the disposal of yard waste. Yard waste should be set out by the curb no more than 12 hours prior to the day of collection. Unless a statement has been issued after a significant weather event, the City will not pick up tree waste from private property.

For more information, contact Park Maintenance Superintendent Vince Cockriel, 952-826-0305, or Recycling & Solid Waste Coordinator Solvei Wilmot, 952-826-0463.

Lawn Watering

Water smart! In order to ensure an adequate water supply for late summer, the City's Utilities Department reminds residents that Edina's odd-even sprinkling policy is in effect year-round.

Homes with even-numbered addresses may water their lawns on even-numbered dates of the week. Homes with odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered dates. So, the family living at 5040 Interlachen Bluff could water their lawn on even-numbered dates – July 2, 4, 6 and so on. To conserve water, watering is banned from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

If a home has a private well for irrigation, the City's sprinkling policy does not apply to those owners. However, the City requests voluntary odd-even and

midday compliance in order to help protect groundwater resources and minimize confusion for city-supplied residents.

If the weather becomes exceptionally dry for an extended period of time, additional water restrictions might be put into place. However, because residents have faithfully observed the odd-even sprinkling policy, the City has had very few water emergencies in the past.

For more information, contact Utilities Coordinator David Goergen, 952-826-0312.

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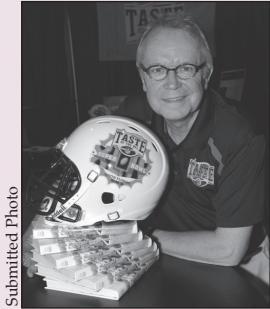
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City Says Thank You At Annual Reception



Submitted Photo

Wayne Kostroski was the recipient of the Mayor's Individual Service Commendation.

The winner of Edina's top award for volunteerism wasn't able to personally accept his crystal award from Mayor Jim Hovland. Instead, he was in Louisville planning a hunger relief event for the Kentucky Derby.

Wayne Kostroski, co-founder of Edina-based restaurant and consulting company Cuisine Concepts, was the recipient of the Mayor's Individual Service Commendation for his work to fight hunger.

In 1987, Kostroski launched two downtown restaurants and soon after brought Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation event for hunger relief to the Twin Cities. When the Super Bowl was held in Minneapolis in 1992, Kostroski was president of the Minnesota Restaurant Association and led the restaurant committee for the Super Bowl, suggesting a celebrity dinner fundraiser based on his experiences with Taste of the Nation. Now an annual event, the Taste of the NFL creates a national platform that addresses the needs of the hungry and homeless by raising money through special events and programs.

On the eve of the Super Bowl each year, the Taste of the NFL hosts the organization's largest event, Party With A Purpose, which features 32 of the country's finest chefs who serve their signature specialties alongside a current,

Hall of Fame or alumni player from each of the NFL teams, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to charity.

Over the last 18 years, the Taste of the NFL has donated more than \$10 million to food shelves around the country. On average, \$500,000 is dispersed to hunger relief organizations following each event. Food shelves in the host city get 30 percent of the proceeds with the remaining funds split 21 ways by the other NFL cities.

For his commitment to hunger relief efforts, Kostroski was named the 2010 James Beard Foundation Humanitarian of the Year, an award that he received just days after Hovland named him Edina's Individual Service Commendation winner.

Hovland presented five other prestigious awards at the Volunteer Recognition Reception.

Mayor's Service Club Commendation – Edina Public Art Committee

Awarded to a club or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the community through its regular activities or through special projects.

The Edina Public Art Committee, a standing committee of the Edina Art Center Board, promotes and enhances the aesthetic quality of life in the community through enjoyment of art in the City's public spaces. In 2009, the group worked closely with City staff to bring the Edina Promenade to life with Edina's first major year-round, rotating outdoor sculpture exhibit.

Mayor's Connecting With Kids Commendation – Rotary Club of Edina, Edina Morningside Rotary Club and Edina High School

Awarded to an individual or organization making a positive impact in the lives of Edina youth.

The two local Rotary clubs worked with faculty and staff at Edina High School to establish STRIVE, a motivational scholarship and mentoring program targeted at Edina

High School seniors who are in the bottom third of their class. Mentors from the two clubs connect with 11 youth each week to provide support and enhancement of their social and relational skills.

Mayor's Youth Commendation – Abigale Dauth and Robbie Latta

Awarded to a young person who has demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of life in the community.

A junior, Abby Dauth is one of the most active students in Edina High School's Youth Serving Youth program, volunteering for Project Earth, Volunteer Club, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Gay-Straight Alliance and Project for Pride.

Robbie Latta, a senior, has also been very involved in activities at the school. His most important contribution has been through his three-year commitment to Sober Squad – a student group whose mission is to reach out to younger students to promote a positive alcohol, tobacco and drug-free lifestyle.

Mayor's Outstanding Senior Commendation – Bob Hartshorn

Awarded to a senior citizen for outstanding volunteer service within the community.

Since 2005, Bob Hartshorn has led the West Metro Senior Softball League, sponsored by the City and Edina Senior Center. Under Hartshorn's leadership, the program has grown from 75 players to 140 and the group plays year

(continued on next page)

Photo by Michael Braun



Six Mayor's Commendations were presented at the Volunteer Recognition Reception in April. Winners and members of the City Council were, front row from left: City Council Member Joni Bennett, City Council Member Mary Brindle, Rebecca Foster and Abby Dauth; and back row: Leslie Kreofsky, Robbie Latta, Mayor Jim Hovland, Bob Hartshorn, Eda Kostroski (receiving recognition on behalf of husband, Wayne) and Heidi Howard. Missing is a representative of the Edina Public Art Committee.

round. His enthusiasm for the program has led to the development of an Invitational Traveling Team that has competed in several national tournaments.

**Mayor's Community Involvement Commendation –
GIS Administrator Rebecca Foster**

Awarded to a City employee for outstanding volunteer service to the community, above and beyond his or her position with the City.

A technician in the Engineering Department, Rebecca Foster is the City's resident Geographic Information Systems (GIS) expert. Her duties include project management, database administration and asset management of the City's infrastructure. A national leader in the use of GIS, she participates in a number of regional committees related to her work, including MN GIS/LIS Consortium, Hennepin County GIS User Group, and MnGeo's Emergency Preparedness Committee. She was appointed to a two-year term on the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council.

For more information on the Volunteer Recognition Reception, contact Human Services Coordinator Susan Howl, 952-826-0403.



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Edina Rotary Performs ‘Miracle’ for Moses

By Marty Doll

Three years ago, amidst the trash-strewn drainage ditches and barely-standing tin and cardboard shanties of Kenya’s Mathare Valley slum, a tattered and dirty cross-eyed toddler asked for a hug that he didn’t receive until a year later – but that would ultimately change his life.

Located on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya, the Mathare Valley is considered one of the poorest and most dangerous slums in Africa. For years, the people from outlying tribes have immigrated to the valley in hope that its proximity to the city of roughly 3 million people would enable them to scrape together enough food and water to survive. With crowded clusters of make-shift homes – barely capable of providing shelter from the elements – popping up anywhere space allowed, the slum quickly exploded in size.

“It’s hard to get a handle on the exact population,” said Edina Rotarian and International Services Chairman for Rotary District 5950 Tim Murphy, who has visited the area a number of times. “We have heard the Mathare Valley houses somewhere between a half a million and 700,000 people in an area just over a square mile.”

This poor and overcrowded “shantytown” is where Moses Mwaura, the youngest of at least four children, brought into the world with no record of his birth by an unemployed single mother, calls home. This is also where the “Moses Miracle” began.

Meeting Moses

The motto of Rotary International is “Service above Self,” and it’s a motto that Edina Rotarian Sandy Schley takes very seriously. As Past District Governor of Rotary District 5950, made up of clubs in western, central and Minneapolis, Minnesota, Schley has focused her District’s efforts on providing safe water to poverty-stricken areas of eastern Africa.

In 2007, Schley was on a mission in the Mathare slums. While outside the area’s youth center, she was approached by a dirty boy who wanted nothing more than a bit of affection from the American stranger.

“He had one eye that looked straight ahead and the other eye was off at the wall, and they were kind of running, and his nose was running. He tried to get my attention,” said Schley, remembering her first encounter with Moses.



Photo by Marty Doll

Moses’s smile shines through his crossed eyes.

"I'm ashamed to admit that I really didn't want to get too close to him because I really thought that I'd get ill – because he looked like he was ill."

"Sandy didn't pick him up," said Murphy, Schley's friend and fellow Rotarian who has heard the emotional story on a number of occasions. "She came back to the United States after that trip to Africa, and it haunted her."

Schley returned to the Mathare Valley a year later on another Rotary mission, and the memory of the ragged little boy who had unknowingly touched her heart travelled with her. Almost a year to the day since she had met Moses, Schley watched the small, cross-eyed child again scamper toward her.

"This time, he had shoes on, and socks and little clean shorts with a red-checked shirt," said Schley.

"This time, I grabbed him and gave him a big hug."

Having physically benefited from Rotary's safe water and sanitation efforts in only one year, Moses became the face of the District's safe water projects. However, as Sandy continued to tell the story of the young boy to different Rotary clubs in Minnesota, one aspect continued to draw the most attention – the boy's extremely crossed eyes.

At an Edina Rotary meeting in February, Rotarian Dr. Charlie Barer, an ophthalmologist at Edina Eye Physicians & Surgeons, made Schley an offer that left her speechless.

As Murphy tells it, "He approached her and said, 'You know Sandy, if you can get Moses over here, I will fix his eyes.'" Schley broke into tears, and Barer took that as a "yes."

Moses Arrives in Minnesota

While Barer got the ball rolling, Schley, Murphy and a number of other Rotarians worked effortlessly over the very short course of less than two months to make the "Moses Miracle" a reality.

"Each time we made a call," said Murphy, "another Rotarian stepped forward."

Moses' uncle from Kenya, who had lived in Edina for 10 years while obtaining a degree from the University of Minnesota, served as the intermediary between the Rotary Club and the boy's mother. With legal help from Rotarians in Minnesota and Kenya, Murphy was named his temporary legal guardian, and volunteered to travel to Kenya to pick him up. A Rotarian employed with Delta Airlines secured their travel. Medical and dental visits were arranged pro bono through colleagues of Barer, Fairview Southdale Hospital and other Rotarians.

On March 24, Murphy and the young boy walked through the sliding glass doors of airport customs in Minneapolis International. Moses remained timid – eyes wide, but very crossed – as he took in the airport and the people, including Schley, who were there to greet him.

(continued on next page)

The Moses Miracle

Over the next eight days, Moses split his time between the Schleys,' Murphys' and other Rotarian's homes. It didn't take him long to adjust to his surroundings – laughing, running, jumping and playing like any 5-year-old child would. The young boy spoke primarily Kikuyu, a form of Swahili, but did understand a good amount of English, making it easy – at times – for his guardians to communicate with him.

"I think he had 'selective understanding,'" said Schley with a smile, insinuating her feeling that the boy sometimes understood more than he wanted to let on.

The first true order of business for Moses was to have his eyes examined. A quick check-up by Dr. Jafar Hasan, a colleague of Barer's, confirmed what Schley and anyone who had ever seen photos of Moses already assumed – the boy would need to have surgery to correct his physical deformity.

During a two-hour procedure a few days later, Hasan cut and reattached four muscles in Moses' eyes. The surgery loosened the boy's eye muscles



Photo by Marty Doll

Dr. Jafar Hasan performs surgery on Moses's eyes, helping repair not only the boy's appearance, but also his vision.

enough to allow his brain to begin relearning how to use them both simultaneously.

"From a visual standpoint it's going to help him," said Hasan. "From a social and psychological standpoint, it's going to help him tremendously. There's a big stigma, even in this country but especially in other countries, against people that have eyes that aren't straight."

The day after surgery, the results were already apparent. Although swollen and watery, Moses' eyes stared straight ahead for the first time in his life.

"With birth defects such as the intense cross-eyed situation that Moses had, children [in the slums] are squandered away and considered less of a person," said Murphy, owner of Grandview Tire & Auto and other local businesses. "They are the last to get chances in life. Now, Moses has a great chance to break out of the slums."

After eye surgery, Moses visited the dental office of Dr. Angela Wandera, a Rotarian from Eden Prairie and a native of Kenya, for a thorough examination of his teeth and mouth. Wandera discovered cavities on almost every tooth, and performed an extensive procedure to fill, pull and crown as many as possible.

"The disparity of individuals who are of some means or even wealthy is very, very wide if you compare it with individuals who live where Moses lives," said Wandera, speaking from the experience of living the first 28 years of her life in Nairobi. "For him to see the kindness and the



With his new glasses, Moses is hardly recognizable as the same cross-eyed child who arrived only days earlier.

warmth shown to him by the people here, I hope it will touch him and impact him."

The day before he and Murphy were scheduled to return to Kenya, Moses was hardly recognizable as the child who arrived a week before. The once tattered and cross-eyed boy from the slums donned a polo shirt, new glasses and showed off his newly crowned teeth.

"My hope is that he will be and become someone in Kenya that will make a difference, not only now, but for the rest of his life," said Schley, knowing that the work of Rotary District 5950 has completely changed one young child's life for the better. "I wouldn't be surprised

if we see him come back here as a scholar and making a difference in the world."

For more information on the Rotary Club of Edina, visit www.edinarotary.org. For more information on the "Moses Miracle," visit www.CityofEdina.com and choose "Watch a Program." Click on "In Edina" and select the Moses Miracle special episode.



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Country Club Home Named Heritage Award Winner

By Kaylin Martin

It all began when Pete and Sandy Cochrane set out to replace the windows of their 1938 traditional Edina Colonial Revival last summer.

"Before we knew it, we weren't only replacing the windows, but ripping off the siding and building a new garage," said Sandy. "We thought 'If we we're going to spend all this money, we might as well do it the right way.'"

The Cochranes were recently named the winner of the 2010 Edina Heritage Award for "doing it the right way" with their efforts to bring their home's historic essence back to life.

"It's great to see how good homes look after they've gone through the restoration process," said Joel Stegner, Chairman of Edina's Heritage Preservation Board, which has presented the award annually for seven years. "When people make an effort, like the Cochranes did, we appreciate it. They did a wonderful job exemplifying what the Heritage Award is all about."

Once the Cochranes decided to make more improvements to their home than replacing the windows, they knew they had to find help. After hearing rave reviews about the work Steve Kuhl and his team were doing, the Cochranes decided to give the designer a call. Kuhl completed a remodeling project for Pete's brother, who also lives in the historic Country Club District.



During the remodeling project at 4611 Arden Ave., new siding, windows, cornices and a new portico were constructed to honor the home's historic integrity.

"We picked the right people to work with," said Sandy. "It's rare to find people to work with on home improvement projects who are as passionate about the project as you are, but we found that."

Kuhl, meticulous about the details of the project, assured the Cochranes that their home on Arden Avenue would not only meet the guidelines for remodeling in a designated Heritage Landmark neighborhood, but that the project would give their home the functionality they were looking for.

Before they could get started, all exterior work had to be approved by the Heritage Preservation Board. "I think if a lot of people weren't subjected to those pressures or

reviews, builders would just paste stuff onto houses, even when the client is fine with it,” said Kuhl, “but part of our job is to educate the client about what’s correct when it comes to maintaining historic integrity.

“I’m glad that the Historic Preservation Board exists. I appreciate their efforts and wish they had existed sooner.”

From the 1950s through the 1990s, the Cochranes’ home “suffered some indignities” that took away from its historic significance. It was important to both Kuhl and the Cochranes that they recapture the previous glory of the historic home. However, in order to do so, much attention had to be paid to the specifics of the project in order to showcase the architecture that creates a Colonial Revival.

“Details are important to the project, but they are not the project itself. A Colonial Revival, and other historic homes, is all about its overall composition. It’s about all the details coming together in such a way that there is form, balance and hierarchy,” said Kuhl. “From the beginning, the Cochranes had the foresight and discipline – emotionally and financially – to make the right decisions about everything.”

The old vinyl and rotted wood windows were replaced with new windows featuring integrated muntins, or window grids. The exterior window trim was cut down in size to better comply with historic standards, and each window was then capped with a crown casing on top.

It was important to the Cochranes to salvage what they could, so they donated whatever materials possible to the Reuse Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping reusable building materials out of landfills.

Kuhl says the most important identifying feature of a Colonial Revival is the cornice treatments, where the corners of the home meet the roofline. Kuhl’s team did a complete cornice overhaul and gave the cornices life by incorporating more detailed woodwork and a hand-soldered copper capping.

The distressed cedar shake siding was replaced with a product new to Minnesota, Hardi-Artisan, a version of Hardi-board concrete siding that is over 2.5 times thicker than common Hardi siding. This creates the depth, texture and shadow of lap siding true to the home’s historic form.

Also appropriate to the home’s original form is the front portico. Kuhl said designing the home’s front portico was the most challenging part of the project. After much research, Kuhl was able to create a portico that reflects the proportions and scaling of other Colonial Revivals. However, Kuhl said doing so takes time and a lot of work.

“You can tell when something doesn’t look totally correct, and it’s because they haven’t followed the historic form or really respected that there is a precedence to these things,” he said. “We didn’t invent these rules, so we

(continued on next page)



Before the remodel, thick shutters and vinyl windows covered Pete and Sandy Cochrane's old home, tarnishing its historic form.

have to be humble enough to look them up, learn them and follow them."

The flattop garage, which was added to the home long after its original construction, was demolished and a new garage was constructed to softly mimic the home's presence. The home's inauthentic four-season porch was also reconstructed to better compliment the home's originality. However, it was not made to completely match the rest of the house.

"A good house tells a story over time," said Kuhl. "It's appropriate and feels right that the porch is differentiated from the rest of the house. It's okay for a house to say 'I've grown and evolved to suit the changing lifestyles that lives in my walls,' but it has to be done respecting a certain amount of rules.

"A lot of what we find attractive when we drive around Lake Harriet or Edina is the quirky A-symmetric charm that these homes have."

After the construction was complete, Pete and Sandy said they couldn't have been more pleased with the results or more surprised about the award.

"It isn't that much more of an effort to take that extra step and do it right," said Sandy. "It's nice that this award is the confirmation that we did do the right thing and to be recognized for it is neat."

During May's Heritage Preservation Month, the Heritage Preservation Board takes time to recognize and applaud those who add value to the community by demonstrating excellence in preservation, said Edina's Associate Planner Joyce Repya.

Even though the Cochranes' home improvement project was award-winning and everyone was happy with the final product, in the end what brought the most joy were the friendships that were formed.

"The Cochranes are lovely, kind, warm people and that's by far been my favorite part of the project," said Kuhl. "When you get clients like Pete and Sandy, it's professional sunshine."

The Heritage Award-winning home is located at 4611 Arden Ave. For more information on the Edina Heritage Award, contact Associate Planner Joyce Repya at 952-826-0462 or visit www.CityofEdina.com/Planning.



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City Welcomes New Police K-9 Team

By Kaylin Martin

The Edina Police Department's newest officer took to the streets in May – on all fours.

After graduating from St. Paul's renowned K-9 training program in May, Blade, the City's newest police canine and his handler, Jason Behr, began work.

"I'm very pleased to have Jason as a handler," said K-9 Supervisor Sgt. Tom Draper. "Some people just do it to do it, but Jason is driven and has strived for the position. He and Blade will do a great job."



Photo by Kaylin Martin

Police Officer Jason Behr, left, works with Blade during the bite work portion of St. Paul's K-9 training program.

Blade, a German Shepherd, was born in late 2008 from a long bloodline of Slovakian police dogs and imported to the United States as a puppy. Mark Ficcadenti, Head Trainer for St. Paul's Police K-9 unit, says police canines are specially bred to have "rock-solid" nerves, very high drive and other natural tendencies, which sets them apart from typical house pets. Police K-9s cost approximately \$7,500, an investment in the animal's working life of five to seven years, depending on their health.

However, just because the dogs are bred to be police canines doesn't mean they will end up patrolling the streets.

"They go through the training process, but can fail out just like the handlers," said Ficcadenti, "and sometimes they do."

Blade and Behr had to worry little about failing out of K-9 school. Neither did the 14 other talented teams who participated in the 12-week, full-time training class.

"They did very well," said Ficcadenti of Blade and Behr. "Jason is very athletic, which helps out tremendously. Blade had outstanding tracking skills and did great criminal apprehensive work. Ordinarily, you get a group where one or two teams struggle, but this class was phenomenal."

During the training program, held once a year for new police canines and handlers, dogs are schooled in agility, obedience, tracking, criminal apprehension and handler



Police Officer Jason Behr and K-9 Blade began working for the City in May.

redirect their attention. It's a challenge for the handler, too."

Wanting to become a K-9 handler since he was a boy, Behr says partnering with Blade has been a lot more work than he initially thought, but he's happy to finally be part of a K-9 team. When he first started with the Edina Police Department in 1998, there was no K-9 program.

In late 2001, Officer Kevin Rofidal, whose K-9, Kodiak, retired earlier this year, brought up the idea of starting a K-9 program to then-Police Chief Mike Siitari. With a

protection. Even though the focus on the schooling seems to be on the canine, Behr says there is just as much training for the person on the other end of the leash.

"If the dog isn't doing what you want it to do, it's usually not the dog, it's the person," he said. "We have to learn how to hold the leash and learn how they react to things and how to

clear understanding that the community could benefit from a K-9 program, Siitari signed the program into action.

Behr and Blade join Officer Mike Seeger and Diesel in the Edina K-9 program. Today, the K-9 program is especially strong with help from the Edina Crime Prevention Fund, Edina Federated Women's Club and other donors in the community, such as Dow Water & Process Solutions, whose donation covered the purchase of Blade.

"Dow has been committed to supporting Edina and our surrounding communities for more than 30 years," said Tom Bass, Dow Water & Process Solutions Business Manufacturing & Site leader. "We're thrilled to be able to provide support to the Edina Police Department's K-9 program so they could acquire Blade to assist with patrol operations and community outreach programs."

The community funding covers expenses such as fencing, food and veterinarian bills, as well as the initial cost of the canine.

"Without the community support, we wouldn't have the program to begin with," said Behr. "It's great to work in a community that supports the Police Department like Edina does."

For more information on Edina Police Department's K-9 unit, contact the Department at 952-826-1610 or visit www.CityofEdina.com/Police.

Fresh Art Fills Edina Promenade

By Kaylin Martin

On a spring day when Lois Ring first sat down on an Edina Promenade bench to discuss the new sculptures that were to grace the pathway this summer, she quoted Pablo Picasso.



Photo by Kaylin Martin

“Holy Big Bird,” an abstract crane by Stephen Fischer, is one of the new sculptures on the Edina Promenade.

““Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life,”” she recited from memory. “I love that quote, because it speaks so much truth.”

Ring and other members of the Edina Public Art Committee (EPAC) selected sculptures this spring to replace some of the art on the Edina Promenade. The 2009 People’s Choice Award winners were invited to keep

their sculptures on the pathway for a second year. Those include the first-place piece “Gyr Family Cycle” by Perci Chester and the second-place piece “Mosaic Stone Chairs” by Fuller Cowles and Constance Meyerson.

Chester, who was thrilled at the invitation to stay for a second year, said her piece fits well in its location on the Edina Promenade.

“Having the piece on the Promenade gives people the opportunity to connect with the art,” she said. “When that happens, the piece comes alive and it extends the meaning of the work.”

Due to the popularity of the third-place piece, “Minnesota Eco Turtle” by Kathy Gustafson, the Committee was able to raise money to purchase the sculpture to remain in the Promenade indefinitely.

The Committee received approximately 25 proposals from sculptors interested in having their pieces on display at the Edina Promenade and Grandview Square Park. After the Committee narrowed the field, they learned about the artists and their submitted artwork, then voted on their favorites.

“Art is subjective, so it’s hard to choose something everyone will like,” said EPAC Member Brad Benn, “but that’s alright, because art is supposed to create discussion. Some will like some pieces and dislike others, but that’s good.”

The nine new sculptures on the Edina Promenade this summer include works made of bronze, stone, stainless steel and other media. The artwork, which was installed in May and June, includes:

- “Holy Big Bird” by Stephen Fischer
- “Entrega Total” by Guilloume
- “Reflections on Friendship” by Nicholas Legeros
- “Grace” by Marcia McEachron
- “Time Piece” by Dean Holzman
- “Rider of the 4 Directions” by Gordon VanWert

Artwork new to Grandview Square Park this year includes:

- “Brindled Spirit” by Deb Zeller
- “St. Joseph” by Nicholas Legeros
- “Toro” by Chris Gustafson

This marks the second season for the Edina Promenade’s rotating exhibit, modeled after the successful rotating exhibit at Grandview Square Park, now in its fifth season.

EPAC relies heavily on outside donations to continue supplying art for public canvases, such as the Edina Promenade. All of the art is on loan to the City, but is available for purchase. A plaque is marked at the foot of every sculpture indicating the price. The Committee is hopeful members of the community will contribute financially to either maintain the pieces while they

are on loan or for permanent acquisition on the Edina Promenade.

“I would like to see some pieces remain in the City,” Ring said before reflecting further on Picasso’s quote. “Art takes us to a magical dream-like state, away from our ordinary environment. True appreciation is an imaginary existence out of reality.”

Contributions to the Edina Public Art Committee can be made via the Edina Community Foundation, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436, with the gift designated “For EPAC.” Residents may also donate to public art when making their utility bill payments.

The Edina Promenade is located between Centennial Lakes and Galleria. For more information about the Edina Promenade artwork contact, Lois Ring at 952-806-9966.

Artist Profile: Nicholas Legeros

By Kaylin Martin

Thirty years after bronze sculptor Nicholas Legeros first set foot into his mentor's studio, his mentor, the late Paul Granlund, set foot into Legeros' studio to ask him for help on a commissioned piece.

"When he asked, I said, 'Of course.' He came up with the model, but was sick and had cancer," recalled Legeros. "He came over one morning and we began working. By lunch time, he was pretty tired, so he went home and that was the last I ever saw of him. He passed away three weeks later."

Legeros said the greatest day of his career was that day he worked on the sculpture with Granlund. "That experience was far more meaningful than the piece itself," he said.

A lifelong resident of Edina, Legeros poured his first bronze piece at Edina High School. After deciding to pursue a career in sculpture, he attended Gustavus Aldophus College where he met Granlund, who gave Legeros the training, knowledge and the benefit of learning what the life of a sculptor is like.

After receiving his graduate degree from the University of Minnesota, he continued to stretch his creativity and imagination as an artist.

"It's an extremely satisfying process to get up every morning and have the ability to think of something and then just make it. And to make a living doing that is pretty rare," he said.



Submitted Photo

Nicholas Legeros works on the mold for one of his commissioned pieces.

Throughout the years, Legeros' work, much of which has been completed on a commissioned basis, has become a visual diary of sorts. He says he can point to any piece of his art and think about a part of his life and the people who were prevalent.

"I looked up to Paul Granlund tremendously. He was like another father to me. The relationships you form in life are the most important thing," said Legeros. "When I get to do a portrait of someone or children, you get to know those individuals or families and it's a very satisfying thing."

Legeros' bronze work can be viewed this summer as part of the rotating exhibits on the Edina Promenade and at Edina Grandview Square Park.



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Great Gardens Of Northeast Edina To Be Featured On Tour

Five beautiful residential gardens in northeast Edina will be featured Wednesday, July 21, during the Edina Garden Council's biennial garden tour.

Bette and John DeMars, Dennis and Catherine Niewoehner, Katherine Joy Aby, Curt Larson and Mark Fries, and Mark Campbell will invite the public onto their distinct properties during the self-guided tour, which will be held noon to 8 p.m.

Bette and John DeMars

The DeMars have lived in the White Oaks Neighborhood since 1981. Their corner lot adjacent to a wetland shows off the beautiful English cottage style home surrounded by a classic white picket fence delineating the gardens within. Brick paths and flagstone steps lead to several garden areas. There is a formal perennial bed, a woodland garden, rock garden, hosta glade, vine-covered pergola and trellis, fairy garden, vegetable garden, herb garden and a water lily pond with waterfall.

Dennis and Catherin Niewoehner

The Niewoehners have maintained this traffic-stopping example of a boulevard garden in the Wooddale section of the Country Club District since the early 1980s. Their boulevard overflows with many colorful perennials and annuals. The backyard has a relaxing shade garden next to Minnehaha Creek and is filled with annuals, ferns, hostas, daylilies and astilbe. The east side garden is a shade garden composed mostly of perennials, with somewhat more varied composition.



Photo by Michael Braun

Dennis and Catherin Niewoehner have maintained their boulevard garden on Wooddale Avenue since the early 1980s.

Katherine Joy Aby

Aby's unique garden features mosaic steps and humorous details throughout, from hidden Barbie dolls to Tea Cup stakes. The circle garden is marked with an obelisk that can be seen from Google Earth. There is a reflecting pool, kitchen garden and a cutting garden as well. Aby especially likes Gentians and Baptisias, which blend well with the blue home. The carpeted compost area is a must see.

Aby's mini-arboretum has dwarf conifers, magnolias, a young oak, the shade of a Kentucky Coffeetree, redbuds, a white fir, and an Ohio buckeye. Pollarded curly willows are on the north side. Aby is the chief espalier

instructor at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and she tries out new techniques at home. In her garden, you can find apple, cherry, currant, witch hazel and blue beech espaliers, as well as her monogrammed “K” in Honeycrisp apples. There are two espalier fences, one with curved branches and the other with an oblique pattern, around the espalier nursery.

Curt M. Larson and Mark Fries

This Craftsman style home to which Curt and Mark moved in June 2004 was relandscaped as part of a 2006 Home & Garden TV Landscaper’s Challenge. The garage was moved next to the house to create an enclosed entry and was replaced by a swimming pool with a rock waterfall at the head of the pool. Strategic openings in the stonework surrounding the pool provide space for many perennials and shrubs. A wooden privacy fence encloses the back yard with its many unusual planters. A bubbling water jardinière welcomes guests at a pergola at the side garden gate entry. In 2007, a perennial garden was added to the front of the home.

Mark Campbell

This garden was the winner of the 2009 Minneapolis Star-Tribune Beautiful Gardens contest. Campbell apprenticed at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California – Santa Cruz. His garden is a study in environmentally friendly gardening.

Perennials include low-maintenance plants such as peonies and Daylilies. A member of the Hosta Society, Campbell has 450 varieties of Hostas. He also has 50

varieties of fruit trees, vines and berry bushes, including three varieties of apricots, in addition to plums, figs, currants, pomegranate, lime, chokeberry, cranberries, seaberries and nine varieties of apples. He even has jostaberries, a cross between a black currant and a gooseberry, both of which he also grows.

Arneson Acres Park

Don’t miss Edina’s premiere public garden! The Edina Park & Recreation Department maintains Arneson Acres Park and its 20 formal gardens. The specialized gardens are filled with annuals, perennials, wildflowers, Hostas, lilies and Daylilies, as well as a restful memory garden. Many varieties of trees are found on the property, which once was the home and nursery of the park’s donor, Mort Arneson.

Tickets to the five private gardens on the tour are available in advance by calling 952-941-9589 or can be purchased the day of the event at Arneson Acres Park. Addresses of the gardens on the tour are disclosed on the tickets. Tickets purchased the day of the event cost \$15; tickets purchased in advance cost \$12 each. Proceeds support the Edina Garden Council’s work in Edina parks, as well as scholarships for horticulture students. A plant sale will be held in the Arneson Acres Park gazebo during the tour.



Strengthening Our Community

The Edina Foundation: Our 2010 Commitment to Youth



By Dick Crockett
Executive Director

This first year of the “teens” decade may end up being the strongest year ever for our Foundation’s support of youth programs in Edina. Support typically involves collaboration with other organizations that share a commitment to a key part of the Foundation’s mission – making

Edina a premier place to raise families.

The Connecting With Kids (CWK) Leadership Breakfast in February honored eight individuals and organizations with leadership awards. This was the culmination of a busy year for CWK Executive Director Heather Haen Anderson and her board of directors, which includes representatives of the City, Edina Public Schools, Edina High School student body, Edina Chamber of Commerce, business and faith communities, and the Foundation, which also serves as her employer.

After helping for the last two years to raise funds for the EHS Girls Hockey Boosters, we were overjoyed when the Edina High School girls’ hockey team won a state championship in March.

The Edina Youth Juggling Association, another of our Designated Fund partners, presented routines by a couple dozen juggling students at its Winter Showcase in March and featured over 135 such “Jugheads” at a Juggle

Jam in May. A Jugheads team successfully competed against adults and won a gold medal at the International Juggling Festival last year, thanks in part to professional instruction funded by the Foundation.

On May 15, the Edina Morningside Rotary Club, with financial support from the Foundation, held the Edina Bike Festival for bike riders of all ages. Led by Rotarian Mary Brindle (the Foundation’s Program Coordinator), net proceeds of the event were donated to Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People and Feed My Starving Children.

The July 4th weekend will again provide great opportunities for family celebrations in Edina, beginning with our Independence Day Parade on Saturday morning, July 3 (to avoid conflict with church services on Sunday). This event typically involves hundreds of kids marching in various units in the parade and thousands more in the audience. This event is co-hosted by the Foundation and the City, organized by a volunteer committee chaired by Richard Olson, and supported by over 20 local businesses. (See the Parade website at www.EdinaParade.org for a list of sponsors.)

The holiday festivities culminate at Rosland Park with a concert by the First John Phillip Sousa Memorial Band at 8:30 p.m., immediately followed by fireworks made possible by a generous gift to the Foundation by Fairview Southdale Hospital.

The Foundation has made a major grant, with funds provided by the William D. Radichel Foundation, to

support Edina's children's technology museum, The Works, and its summer camps for youth.

Southdale YMCA will host a Flip Flop 5K for kids and adults on July 31 around Braemar Golf Course, and the Foundation will be one of several community sponsors.

The Foundation's annual Centennial Lakes Park Torchlight Concert will be on Aug. 8. Featuring music by the First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, the Sunday evening concert is sponsored by Fairview Southdale Hospital and regularly draws an intergenerational audience of several thousand people with both youth and adults serving in volunteer roles.

The second-annual Edina Day of Service is planned for October, with grant funding from the Foundation and with key leadership from CWK, City of Edina and Edina Public Schools representatives.

After its very successful initial venture in the 2008 Presidential election, Kids Voting Edina will be organized again with Foundation grant support for the November general election and with leadership from CWK, the City of Edina and Edina Public Schools. Special ballots and polling places will be provided at schools in the community, with elementary and middle school kids encouraged to vote with their parents and Edina High School students serving as volunteers.

The Foundation will again join with the Edina Community Library to host a series of Edina Reads programs that have

a commitment to serve a multi-generational audience, to include Edina youth in related programs, and to occasionally share author presentations with Edina High School.

Finally, the Foundation anticipates scheduling another Edina Dialogue in 2010, with the expectation that student organizations will again play a major role as co-sponsors, panel members or musicians.

These programs reflect a core value of the Foundation, and the other collaborating organizations mentioned above, that young people should be able to experience the sense and spirit of community that makes Edina such a great place to live. This was reflected in its designation by *Family Circle* magazine last year as one of the "100 Best Communities to Raise a Family." The Foundation is committed to continuing its service to Edina youth and invites other organizations and individuals to join it in these programs.

Questions about the Foundation or any of its programs may be addressed to Crockett at 952-833-9573 or EDfoundation@ci.edina.mn.us. Additional information about the Foundation and links to other articles about the Foundation may be found at its website, www.edinacommunityfoundation.org.

Art Center Instructor Works To Bring Out Creativity In Others

By Kristal Leebrick
Contributing Writer

Creativity is not a waste of time.

That's the message music composer Michael Giacchino broadcast to millions of television viewers in February when he accepted an Academy Award for Best Score in the movie *Up*. Edina Art Center instructor Nicole Mills-Novoa likes those words.

In his acceptance speech, Giacchino told the story of how he talked his dad into giving him his old wind-up 8mm camera so he could make movies when he was 9. His parents never told him he was wasting his time. "I know there are kids out there that don't have that support system," he said, "so if you're out there and you're listening, listen to me: If you want to be creative, get out there and do it. It's not a waste of time. Do it. OK?"

Mills-Novoa can relate to Giacchino's story. As a child, she "did lots of creative stuff that probably bordered on performance art, but most people thought I was a weirdo," she said. "My parents were always supportive of my quirks and allowed me my eccentricities."

Mills-Novoa, 26, said she wants to emulate the support she received from her parents as she teaches children's art classes this summer at the Art Center. "That's what I want to do in my programming for kids: help people embrace who they are as individuals in the same

way my parents did for me," she said. "To encourage who you are [is] invaluable. We're all weird. We're all quirky. That's what makes people so interesting – these quirks, these funny things; that's what we should embrace."

Numerous studies have linked children's art education to improved literacy, mathematics and science skills as well as student motivation and social competence, but creative work has proven to be valuable for adults, too.

Art Center Director Diana Hedges agrees.

"Sometimes people wander into the Art Center out of curiosity. Some of those folks will say flat out that they are not artistic," Hedges said. "I believe that everyone is born with creativity and they only need to rediscover that quality in their life."

Lack of creativity can actually impair brain function, according to Dr. Gene D. Cohen, Director of the Center on Aging, Health and Humanities at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"Expressing ourselves creatively can actually improve health, both mentally and physically," Cohen wrote in his book *The Creative Age: Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life*. "Creativity is a natural, vibrant force throughout our lives – a catalyst for growth, excitement and forging a meaningful legacy."



Nicole Mills-Novoa helps her students at the Edina Art Center embrace their creativity.

No matter what their age, doing art gives people “the gift of opening up our minds and seeing things in a different way,” said Mills-Novoa. “We’re all creative. We just need an opportunity to practice, harness and encourage it. I think every one of us has such potent imaginations. As children, we are creative and open to innovation, and then as we grow into adulthood, we feel as though we’ve lost those very qualities. We spend much of our adult lives believing that we are not creative, but that simply is just not true. Adults must find their way back to their creativity and nurture it.

“It’s a very important experience for everyone. In American culture we are so concerned about what’s pragmatic and what’s logical, and that’s what we deem as important. We need to put more emphasis on the ethereal part of life, the unknown.”

Mills-Novoa has spent a good part of her adult life exploring art all over the world. After a year at the University of Minnesota, she studied painting in Florence, Italy. She moved to Amsterdam for a while and later Portland, Ore. There, she began writing small theater pieces and children’s plays. She received her bachelor’s degree in sculpture from the San Francisco Art Institute last year and moved back to the Twin Cities in December.

While in San Francisco, she worked with children, doing shadow puppet plays and making life-size marionettes out of paper-mâché and dowel rods. One of the classes she taught this spring at the Edina Art Center, “Make a T.V. Show,” incorporated puppetry, playwriting and acting.

“It [was] such a fun project for them to be able to write their own stories, create their own costumes, sets, props, puppets, backdrops and then have an outlet in the community where it [could] be seen,” she said. Class participants created two television shows that were aired on the local public television channel.

She hopes the broadcasts will inspire other children to “go outside and make a play.”

(continued on next page)

back to a less isolated existence. Art is so important for building community strength and embracing different ways of thinking and seeing. These creative qualities breathe fresh air into our lives and allow us to grow and evolve.”

For more information about the Edina Art Center’s creative programming for both children and adults, visit www.EdinaArtCenter.com, or call 952-903-5780. The Art Center is located one mile west of Southdale Center at 4701 W. 64th St.

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City Manager Set To Retire July 30

“Save Planet Earth.”

That was the chorus begun by environmentalists in the early 1970s and one that can still be heard today. It rang loud and clear when Gordon Hughes began work for the City of Edina in 1974 as Environmental Planner. It will also be part of his swan song when he retires July 30 as City Manager.

“In the early 1970s, the City of Edina and the nation as a whole had a heightened awareness of environmental issues. The focus then was more on air and water quality, but it’s very similar to today’s emphasis on conserving energy,” said Hughes, who announced plans for his retirement just before celebrating his 36th anniversary with the City in the spring.

Hughes was hired after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in biology and completing an internship with the Metropolitan Council. The Edina City Council chartered an Environmental Quality Commission, which quickly determined that an Environmental Planner position was necessary to work on environmental impact studies and related projects. The combination of his education and work experience in local government made Hughes the perfect fit for the new job.

In 1977, Hughes was promoted to City Planner and served the community in that position until 1985. The work of the Planning Department grew tremendously over his tenure. Edina’s first Comprehensive Plan was developed during that period of time and the City went out on a limb to



Photo by Michael Braun

After a 36-year career, City Manager Gordon Hughes will retire from the City of Edina on July 30. After his retirement, Hughes and his wife, Judy, plan to attend many outdoor concerts and events at Centennial Lakes Park, a place near and dear to his heart.

plan one of the country’s first mixed-use developments, Edinborough. Planning for Edinborough’s housing, retail and office mix and public park began in 1981, but ground was not broken until 1985.

“Since I announced my retirement, I’ve been asked time and again what I am most proud of,” Hughes said. “A lot of people talk about Centennial Lakes – a project near and dear to my heart – but, from a project standpoint, I’m most proud of the development of Edinborough. There wasn’t much of a blueprint to follow. The City had to come up

with an idea and let it grow and evolve and then build it without failing.”

Quickly a model for other mixed-use developments, Edinborough rolled into the development of nearby Centennial Lakes and redevelopment of 50th & France in northeastern Edina. In 1978, Hughes also assumed the duties of Executive Director of the Edina Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). In 1985, he was promoted to Assistant City Manager while retaining his duties as Executive Director of the HRA. He was named City Manager in 1998.

“I was fortunate to continue to grow professionally during my time with the City of Edina,” Hughes said. “There was always another job that fit for me.”

Hughes is also proud of the staff he has helped develop during his years as part of the Administration Department. “I’ve really tried to improve the professionalism of the City staff and put together a group of people who work really well together,” Hughes said. “The staff works very hard on behalf of the City. I’ve always told them simply to ‘Do your job. Be professional. Stay out of the politics.’ Ethics has always been important to me and I wanted to model that for others.”

Though the number of people on the City payroll has remained relatively flat during his years as City Manager, the Communications & Marketing and Information Technology departments were created in the past decade.

“Technology has been an incredible change,” Hughes said, speaking of personal computers, email, voicemail, the internet and more. “When I started, the budget was typed with carbon paper. Engineers used slide rules to design streets. The ability for residents to access information was difficult and tedious. I’m not a techno-whiz, but I’ve never stood in the way of technology our staff recommended or residents asked for.”

Of the things he is most proud of, Hughes also notes the City’s strong financial position and premiere bond ratings. Under Hughes’ leadership, the City has operated successful enterprises such as Edina Liquor and the Edina Aquatic Center, developed a capital improvement program and achieved AAA and Aaa bond ratings.

(continued on next page)

The public is invited to attend a reception
in honor of outgoing
City Manager Gordon Hughes.

5-8 p.m. Monday, July 26
Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.
Appetizers and Refreshments
\$10 per person

Please RSVP before July 19 to 952-927-8861
or edinamail@ci.edina.mn.us

"Financially, the City is in as strong of a position as anyone," he said. "I'm leaving the City in a good place. "I'll miss the people and the routine. My car has headed to the same address for the same 36 years. In terms of my complete body of work, no, I wouldn't change anything. Who could ask for more? The City was very good to me."

Mayor Jim Hovland was part of the City Council when Hughes was named City Manager. "Gordon Hughes has done all you could ever ask for in terms of running and caring for an organization," he said. "He is an incredible resource for the City – he's smart, knowledgeable in so many areas and an extraordinary manager.

"He has been a superlative City Manager. He could have gone anywhere he wanted during his career. He could have run any city of any size in any place. We are so fortunate that he chose to stay here for 36 years. We hate to see him leave, but we wish him the very best."

Hughes does not have any immediate post-retirement plans. He and his wife, Judy, whom he met on the job in 1978, plan to enjoy the summer together on their hobbies and with their adult children, Tom, Katy and Kelsie.

At press time, the City Council was continuing its search for a new City Manager. PDI Ninth House has been hired to lead the process. PDI representatives recruited candidates in the five-state area and applications were accepted through early June. Council Members hope to extend an offer to someone by Aug. 1.

For more information on the process of hiring a City Manager, contact Harry Brull at PDI Ninth House, harry.brull@PDINinthHouse.com



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VEAP Seeks Donations To Provide School Supplies For Children In Need

Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) needs help in giving neighborhood children the opportunity to start the school year with the basic supplies necessary for a good education.

VEAP's Back-to-School Program provides children in need with a backpack filled with basic supplies appropriate for their grade level. In 2009, VEAP served almost 3,000 children in need of supplies for school. Statistics from all VEAP programs indicate that the number will rise again as students return to the classroom this fall.

There is a need for backpacks and basic supplies. Financial donations to VEAP are also welcomed to assist in the purchase of items needed for distribution.

VEAP seeks the following items for the provided bags of supplies:

- Backpacks (pink and purple are always very popular)
- Wide- and college-lined spiral notebooks
- Wide- and college-lined loose-leaf paper
- Colored pencils in boxes of 12
- 12-inch rulers
- Full-size erasers
- Scissors
- White glue
- No. 2 pencils in packages of 8 to 10
- Two-pocket folders in solid colors
- Glue sticks
- Washable markers in packages of 8
- Highlighters

- Pencil boxes or zippered pencil pouches
- Blue and black ink pens
- Watercolor paints in set of 8 colors

All donations must be new to ensure that the student's supplies are similar in quality. No used items will be accepted.

Donations can be sent at any time to the VEAP office, 9728 Irving Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431. Donors should indicate that the goods are for the Back-to-School program.

Collection sites will be set up in the community in late July and include Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St., and Edina Fire Station No. 1, 6250 Tracy Ave. Check the VEAP website for additional drop sites at www.veapvolunteers.org. Donated items will be distributed the last week in August.

Registration for this program will be held July 23 through Aug. 11, and only those registered to participate will receive school supplies. VEAP can only serve children entering Kindergarten through 12th grade. No pre-school, Headstart, college or transitional program students are eligible. To register, call the VEAP office at 952-888-9616 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information about VEAP's Children and Youth Services programs, contact Kristin Hill Avirom at 952-888-9616 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.


City Of Edina To Flush Hydrants In September

To purge iron deposits and sediment from the water distribution system and identify hydrants in need of maintenance, the Utilities Division of the City of Edina's Public Works Department will flush hydrants for two weeks in September. Random hydrants are also flushed throughout the year as weather and water demand allows.

Hydrant-flushing will take place 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. In an attempt to minimize the impact on residents, hydrants will be flushed on the east side of Minnesota Highway 100 the week of Sept. 13 and on the west side of the highway the week of Sept. 20.

Due to the hydrant flushing; it is inevitable that some residents will receive discolored water that could stain laundry, but is safe to drink. You should check for signs of discoloration prior to washing clothes. If the water is discolored when you turn on your tap, simply run the water until it is clear. Because the water system is a "single-pressure zone," it is possible that discolored water problems will occur in any area of the City while flushing is occurring.

For more information regarding hydrant flushing, call the Utilities Division at 952-826-0375 or 952-826-0312.



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In addition, insurance companies that do offer the protection have varying amounts of coverage.

Check your homeowner's insurance policy to see if you have coverage for backups.

If you do not have coverage, consider adding to your policy because in most cases the City's insurance will not cover your damages in the event of an incident.

Business Notes



Submitted Photo

Peterson celebrating her 30th birthday at the salon in 1980.

Edina Hairdresser Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Over the years, the owner of Edina Hairdresser has dealt with challenges that often occur when you've been in business for three decades: break-ins, tornados, floods and power outages, to name a few. However, none

have gotten in the way of the salon celebrating its 30th anniversary.

"I remember when the power went out once and we had a full salon," recalled Edina Hairdresser owner Liana Peterson. "Five clients had dripping wet hair, so I filled up my van and drove across town to a salon that did have power so I could blow-dry and finish [their] hair."

Peterson worked at the Castilian for 12 years before she bought the salon and changed the name to Edina Hairdresser. "I thought 'I am way too young to own my own salon,' but I bought it and the rest is history," said Peterson, who was 32 when she purchased the business.

Throughout the years, Peterson's staff has provided a support system for each other while a few dealt with divorces, deaths and sick kids. They have also had a lot to celebrate together. "We've been through a lot," said Peterson. "But, much of it has been good, like weddings, babies and a lot of birthdays. Any excuse to have a party, we have one.

"The best thing is I've gotten to do what I love every single day. It's like having a coffee party all day long with someone new to talk to every hour. But, the salon is only as good as the staff and I have great, fabulous staff."

The clients must think so, too.

"I was just on vacation this spring and a couple clients told me 'Don't ever, ever retire. We hate it when you're



Liana Peterson

gone,” said Peterson. To comfort them, she jokingly replied, “Here’s the deal, I’m going straight from here to the crematorium.”

“I would certainly love to make it 50 years in the business.”

Edina Hairdresser is located at 7021 Amundson Ave. For more information, call 952-941-3088 or visit www.EdinaHairdresser.com.

Edina Mental Health Walk-In Clinic Opens

When therapist Karen Eckstrom began to notice mental health patients continually being discouraged by high costs, long waits and a lack of confidentiality in treatments, she knew it was time to branch out and fill a need that wasn’t being met.

“There is such a demand for affordable mental health care, especially now in our challenging economy where layoffs happen every day and people are facing additional stress in their lives and need a little extra support,” said Eckstrom, founder and director of the Edina Comfort Care Mental Health Walk-In Clinic.

Edina Comfort Care specializes in numerous treatments, all at the clinic’s rate of \$50 per therapy clinical hour. Therapies address such things as anger management, elder issues, self-esteem, chronic illness and spirituality.

“We want to serve the patient, not the insurance company,” said Eckstrom. “By not using insurance, we are also able to maintain the patient’s confidentiality.”

Even though the clinic’s prices are greatly below the average, Eckstrom doesn’t want the low prices to discourage possible clients who might think the treatment isn’t of high quality. All therapists are licensed professionals who have years of experience working with individuals, couples and families.

“Everyone goes through tough times in their lives,” said Eckstrom, “I’m incredibly happy that now they have a place to go where they feel comfortable, both financially and mentally.”

Edina Comfort Care Mental Health Walk-In Clinic is located at 7300 France Ave. S., Suite 208. For more information about the clinic, call 952-913-5403 or visit www.EdinaComfortCare.com.

– Compiled By Kaylin Martin

Photo by Mary Wooldridge



1

Photo by Marty Doll



4

Photo by Molly Anderson



2

Photo by Kaylin Martin



3

Photo by Marty Doll



5

Photo Gallery

- 1) The Edina High School baseball team, in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen Foundation, dedicated its May 8 game to breast cancer awareness. To show their support, the team wore pink jerseys. The team asked **Gina Komarek**, Grill Manager at Braemar Golf Course and a five-year breast cancer survivor, to throw out the first pitch. **Tommy Wooldridge** escorted her to the mound and **Jack Schechinger** caught her pitch. Both are Komarek's employees at Braemar.
- 2) Detective **Vik Konters** leads a procession to the flag pole with City Manager **Gordon Hughes**, Officer **Jim Rygg**, Police Chief **Jeff Long** and Mayor **Jim Hovland** for a flag-raising ceremony in May for Peace Officers Memorial Week. Konters and Rygg are members of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association.
- 3) **Steven Mirassou** of Mirassou Winery took a break from pouring wine at May's Taste of Edina to pose for a photo with Edina Liquor Director **Steve Grausam**.
- 4) President of Fairview Southdale Hospital and Clinics **Brad Beard**, left, was named the 2010 Edina Business Person of the Year in May. Kare-11's **Tim McNiff** presented the award.
- 5) Members of the Edina Fire Department Special Operations Team took part in rope rescue training nine stories above the ground at the Centennial Lakes office park in May. Along with Edina, members of the Richfield, St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, Bloomington, St. Paul and Minnesota Airport Commission fire departments participated in the training exercise. Dakota County Special Operations and individuals from the Telluride Fire Protection District out of Colorado were also present.

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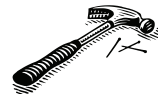
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